



PARTNERS IN CRIME PREVENTION

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Governor O'Malley at the Public Safety forum.

Public safety is the greatest responsibility of government at every level and the Governor noted that from 2006 to the end of 2012, the administration and its local partners in law enforcement have [driven down violent crime by 26.3%](#). Violence against women and children has also been [driven down](#).

In the area of homeland security, Maryland has received national recognition for its emergency preparedness efforts. In 2012, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Trust for America's Health report ranked Maryland in the top category for states best prepared to respond to an emergency. The distinction allowed the state to re-evaluate its emergency management needs from the previously stated policy goal for homeland security to "Make Maryland the National Leader in Homeland Security Preparedness by End 2012." The Governor restated his commitment to working with public safety officials toward meeting the state's [new 12 core competencies](#) and to better protect our state by land, air and sea.

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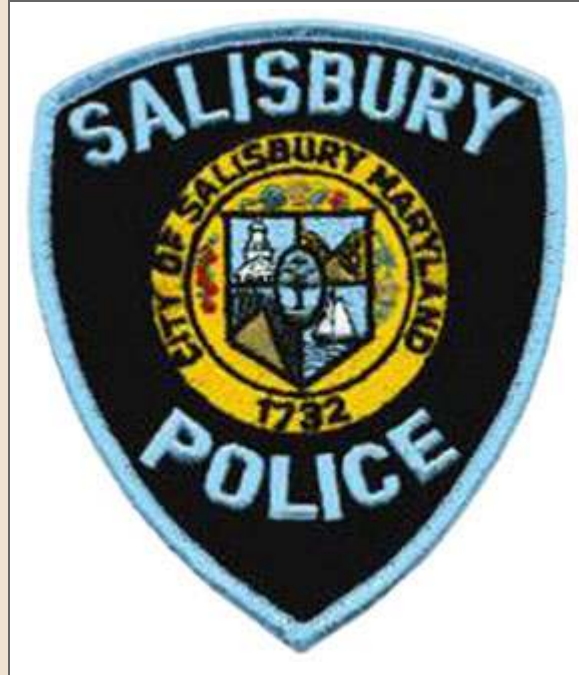
Salisbury Safe Streets Initiative Expanding Innovative Program To Fight Crime

The Salisbury Safe Streets Coalition team is taking a successful community-based program it implemented over the summer and expanding it to a new neighborhood. *Operation East Side* will concentrate on adult offenders who live in the Church Street area in Salisbury.

Police Chief Barbara Duncan said the initiative is based on what is known as [The High Point Model](#), which was successfully used with teenagers in the Doverdale area last summer. “We were getting phone calls from citizens saying the kids here are out of control,” says Chief Duncan. “The people who lived in Doverdale wanted to enjoy their neighborhood, and they felt they could not.”

A new approach to fighting crime seemed to be called for, and the [Safe Streets Coalition](#) team sent two patrol officers, a Corporal, an Assistant State’s Attorney, and a Community Supervision agent to High Point, North Carolina to work with their counterparts there and learn this vastly different approach, which concentrates on preventing crime. Last spring, they began implementing *Operation Quiet Summer*. This included:

- Identifying teenagers in Doverdale who had histories of offenses, both in the community and in school;
- Building cases against those identified;
- Engaging in conversations with community organizations that wanted to be part of the program; and
- Going door to door to talk with each identified offender in their home, inviting them to a ‘Call In,’ a meeting with stakeholders throughout Salisbury to discuss the plan. The offenders were told that they would not be arrested when they showed up for the ‘Call In.’



When the ‘Call In’ occurred in June, more than 20 teenagers arrived, some of them with their mothers, uncles and friends. The Center for Conflict Resolution at Salisbury University ran the meeting, in which the teenagers were told there was a new way of conducting business in the City of Salisbury: if they kept out of trouble over the summer, they would be offered help in the form of jobs, conflict resolution, resume-writing services, education, and other opportunities.

Community members told the teenagers that they wanted them to begin a fresh start on a life without crime. The Warden from the Eastern Correctional Institution brought two inmates who talked about what life was like behind bars. Sports coaches, clergy members, the Wicomico County Police Department, and the NAACP were among the community members at the meeting.

“We wanted these teenagers to end their school year with one goal: to have no contact with law enforcement for the summer months,” said Chief Duncan. And it worked. Not one of the identified teenagers who came to the meeting had a single arrest over the summer. Wicomico State’s Attorney Matt Maciarelo helped two of the teenagers go through the court process to expunge their court records, so they literally had a fresh start.

Operation East Side is now underway and will culminate next spring with the ‘Call In’ meeting. Chief Duncan is optimistic this new approach will work again.

“Our goal is to be part of a process that makes our neighborhoods livable again,” she said. “It was obvious that making arrest after arrest was not getting the results we needed. The benefits of this successful campaign far outweigh the risk it takes to try a new approach. We are fortunate we are able to use our Safe Streets Coalition partnerships as a platform to implement the High Point Model to fight crime in Salisbury.”

Salisbury is the first Safe Streets Coalition in Maryland to use this new method to address crime. “I am excited that our Safe Streets model has expanded to include *Operation Eastside*,” said Mayor Jim Iverton. “For a city the size of Salisbury to be able to address the recidivism, violent crimes, training, and now develop a High Point North Carolina Model for addressing at-risk youth is an accomplishment.”

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GOCCP Grant Funds Data Analyst for Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office

Baltimore City may be the first State's Attorney's Office in Maryland to incorporate the ["Stat" data-driven system](#) that operates statewide. A data analyst funded by a GOCCP state grant is now analyzing data from the integrated case management system in the Baltimore City Office of the State's Attorney. Monthly *SAOStat* meetings provide a sophisticated analysis of case outcome data.

"As we have developed our ability to capture and evaluate data, we have adopted the stat process to organize and share that data in order to continually improve our outcomes," said Elizabeth Embry, Deputy State's Attorney. "Our *SAOStat* is modeled on Baltimore's *CitiStat*, which our agency participates in, and is designed to be a management tool that tests the efficacy of our internal processes against case outcome data."

The analyst will be tracking trends in caseloads, conviction rates, and reasons for nol prosses and stets. Utilizing *SAOStat* will allow the Baltimore City Office of the State's Attorney to make data-driven policy decisions that will directly impact how crimes are prosecuted in Baltimore City.


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Howard County General Joins Maryland's Hospital-Based Domestic Violence Program

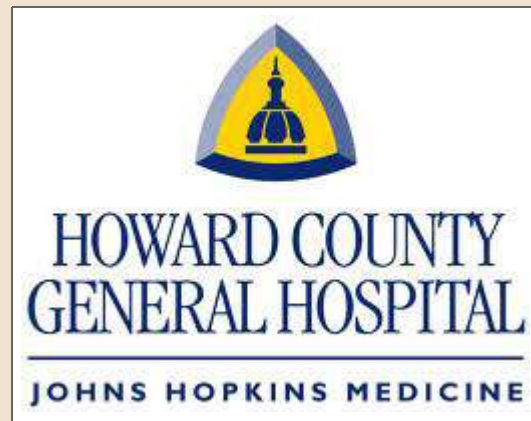
Howard County General Hospital has announced it is partnering with HopeWorks of Howard County to create a new hospital-based domestic violence program. GOCCP is administering a federal grant that funds the program, along with funding from the hospital and Howard County.

The result of a [2010 Executive Order](#) issued by Governor O'Malley, the Howard County General Hospital program will become the eighth hospital-based domestic violence program in Maryland when it is fully operational this spring.

"Our goal is simple: we want to live in a state where all of our families, friends, and neighbors are free from the fear of domestic violence," said Lt. Governor Brown at the announcement on October 29 in Ellicott City. "Over the past seven years, we've seen incredible reductions in both domestic violence deaths and assaults by standing up for victims, working closely with local jurisdictions, and going after offenders. Screening programs like the one we've installed here at Howard County General are an important part of that effort, and I look forward to continuing our work to end domestic violence wherever it occurs in Maryland."

Under the program, Howard County General Hospital will provide training to nurses and other care providers to help them identify whether patients who come to the hospital are victims of domestic violence. Once identified, the patients are given the specialized care they need and are referred to the local domestic violence center.

HopeWorks, the center for domestic violence and sexual assault in Howard County, has already been working with Howard County General Hospital to provide 24-hour advocate service to patients who have been identified as survivors of sexual assault. "We will be expanding our 24-hour advocate services to include survivors of domestic violence under



the new hospital-based domestic violence program,” said Jennifer Pollitt Hill, the executive director of HopeWorks. “Responding to domestic violence survivors while they are in the hospital allows us to immediately inform them of what they can do to keep themselves safe, and give them referrals for resources in the community.”

The other hospital-based domestic violence programs in Maryland are at Anne Arundel Medical Center; Mercy Medical Center, Sinai Hospital, and Northwest Hospital Center in Baltimore City; Prince George’s Hospital Center; Meritus Medical Center in Washington County; and the Greater Baltimore Medical Center in Baltimore County.

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Milestones

VPI Evaluation Shows It Works

A two-year study of the [Violence Prevention Initiative \(VPI\)](#) has found that VPI has effectively contained the state’s most violent offenders, compared to the former system which supervised offenders who had been released from prison on parole/mandatory release. The study was conducted by GOCCP and the Maryland Statistical Analysis Center (MSAC). It compared two groups of offenders supervised by the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS).

The control group was made up of paroled offenders who were assigned in 2004 to the state’s intensive community supervision program that existed before VPI was implemented in 2007. The experimental group consisted of paroled offenders who were assigned to the VPI program in 2008. Data was gathered from both groups for a three-year period and then compared. The results found that the VPI group was arrested fewer times than the control group. In addition, the offenders in the VPI group were violated of their parole, served warrants, and apprehended more swiftly than the offenders in the 2004 control group. Finally, offenders in the VPI group were more likely to have their supervision revoked for a new offense, including violent offenses and technical violations, when compared to the control group.

“When compared to a sample of high risk supervised offenders prior to VPI, each VPI offender committed an average of one less crime over the three-year study period,” said Gregory Coster, the statistical analyst who worked on the evaluation. “With a sample size of 307 offenders, that’s over 300 crimes never committed, 300 citizens never victimized, because offenders were under a more stringent level of supervision.”

“The evidence provides support that VPI is a model program for the supervision and containment of the most violent offenders,” said Jeffrey Zuback, MSAC Director. “VPI has shown to be a valid and important tool in our ongoing efforts to improve public safety in Maryland.”

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Maryland Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Moving Forward

On December 20, 2013, the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) [began the process for health care providers to access its database](#). Authorized health care providers will have online access to their patients’ history of controlled substance use. The goal is to spot possible prescription drug addiction and provide patients with information and access to drug abuse treatment.

“We know that treatment is a valuable tool in helping people recover from drug addiction and reduce their long-term risk of overdose,” said Governor Martin O’Malley. “The PDMP will allow doctors and other health care providers to access valuable information that will assist them in identifying Marylanders at risk and better connect them to the treatment they need.”

Last July, pharmacies and health care practitioners that dispense prescription drugs containing controlled substances in Maryland were able to register and create a data upload account with the PDMP. On August 20, these dispensers were required to begin submitting periodic reports to the PDMP.

The PDMP documents drug prescription and use, and will provide evidence of illegal prescription drugs and possible health care fraud. Maryland law enforcement agencies will be able to request reports and records from the system after obtaining the proper court orders or search warrants, allowing investigators to find and stop drug traffickers.

The PDMP was established by the Maryland General Assembly in 2011. Its mission is to address the misuse, abuse, and diversion of prescription drugs throughout the state. Its overarching goal is to save lives. The number of overdose deaths in Maryland rose by 15 percent from 2011 to 2012, including a 54 percent increase in heroin overdose deaths.

Governor O'Malley has set [a goal of reducing drug overdose deaths by 20 percent across Maryland by the end of 2015.](#)

“Addressing drug abuse and driving down the number of Marylanders who die from drug overdoses is critical to improving public safety, as well as public health,” said Tammy Brown, GOCCP Executive Director. “The PDMP is a tool that will allow doctors and health care professionals to identify Marylanders who are at risk, intervene, and offer them the treatment they need. This is a huge leap forward to being proactive in tackling drug abuse.”

The PDMP is a core component of Maryland’s comprehensive strategy for reducing prescription drug abuse, while preserving the professional practice of health care providers and legitimate patient access to prescription drugs that contain controlled dangerous substances. You can learn more about the PDMP by [clicking here.](#)

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Criminal Justice Dashboard Expansion Means More Data for Public Safety

With the addition of new data sources in 2013, the [Criminal Justice Dashboard](#) has expanded its data available to public safety officials. Launched in 2009, the Dashboard now provides one-stop access to 115 sources of data from 25 databases.

Data sources added in 2013 include:

- High Intensity Drug Traffic Area (HIDTA) Phone Number Data
- Violent Repeat Offender Report and Profile Alerts
- Domestic Related Crime Profile Alerts
- Upgraded Community Supervision Intelligence Form
- Upgraded Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC) Information Form
- Enhanced Offender Search Report
- Central Photo Repository, including photos from the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) and the FBI
- Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Community Supervision GPS



Authorized police officers and other public safety personnel are able to sign into the Dashboard and use one identification number to access information on an offender from the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS), the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS), Court Information, Maryland Criminal History, Intake Photographs, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), DNA, the Maryland Sex Offender Registry, the Maryland Offender Mapping System (MOMS) and WhitePages.com.

“The Criminal Justice Dashboard has proved to be an effective tool to streamline information-gathering for law enforcement,” says Tammy Brown, GOCCP Executive Director. “In the future, we plan to expand the Dashboard to share cross-border information with our neighboring states and municipal public safety systems as part of our continuing goal to make Maryland a safer place for the people who live and work here.”

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Grants Awarded

This past fall, GOCCP awarded \$1,371,660 under the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (BJAG) program. A total of 53 grants were awarded to agencies and nonprofits across Maryland. BJAG is the primary provider of federal criminal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions. The program provides critical funding needed to support a range of program areas including law enforcement, prosecution and court programs, prevention and education programs, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, crime victim and witness initiatives, and planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs.

Also this past fall, GOCCP awarded \$2,103,967 under the federal Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors (S*TO*P) Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). These awards are funding 69 projects in 55 law enforcement and nonprofit service agencies across Maryland. VAWA funds cover a wide range of services for domestic violence survivors, including advocacy, crisis intervention, enforcing protective orders, and providing legal services.

By January, 2014, GOCCP had awarded \$6,787,062 in grants under the federal Victims of Crime Assistance Program (VOCA). These grants are funding 78 projects in 65 law enforcement and nonprofit service agencies that provide direct services to crime victims, including crisis intervention, counseling, and criminal justice support and advocacy.

For up-to-date announcements on grant awards, please check our [Press Release webpage](#). To find Notices of Funding Availability (NOFAs) that are currently available, please look at the bottom of our [website homepage](#).

A complete listing of a wide variety of federal and state funds that make resources available for public safety projects across Maryland can be found [here](#).

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